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Moshe Dayan gives Bonn a piece of his mind

Never has a friendly foreign statesman given Bonn such an unmistakable verbal drubbing as Israel's Moshe Dayan last week.

Bonn had still not recovered its composure after President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem the previous weekend; it took its medicine a little helplessly.

Israel and Egypt, erstwhile mortal foes, now plan to negotiate their own settlement of the Middle East conflict. Somehow this is hard to reconcile with the hitherto accepted view of world affairs as seen from Bonn.

It is certainly the first time this country's foreign policy objective of keeping one step ahead of world affairs has so clearly been called into question.

This desire to adapt in advance to anticipated trends played a leading role in Ostpolitik, Bonn's policy towards the Eastern Bloc in the late sixties and early seventies.

It has also been applied to other parts of the world including, for instance, South Africa.

In Southern Africa Bonn is banking on its conviction that the only way to deal with the major conflict that is brewing between black and white is to adjust in good time to developments that are deemed inevitable.

On his visit to Bonn Mr Dayan pressed home the advantage afforded by the encounter between President Sadat and Premier Begin to demonstrate that there are other viable ways to conduct foreign policy.

He also took the opportunity of telling this country, as a leading member of

being reminded that the concept of a Palestinian national home had been coined by President Carter.

Egypt, he noted, advocates a Palestinian State and an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories, whereas Israel continues to oppose both demands.

Yet the two countries proposed to negotiate with one another and sound out a compromise or bridge of some kind or other — and to meet at the conference table without fulfilling prior conditions.

The leeway open to negotiations must not, Bonn was firmly told, be rendered even narrower than it already is by anticipating what may or may not be deemed a desirable outcome.

This country, Mr Dayan advised, must content itself with recommendations of a general nature and not try "to solve problems by itself and tell us what we ought to be doing."

Both President Sadat and the Israeli government, he claimed, had been taken aback by the US attempt to reactivate the Soviet Union on the Middle East and coordinate American policy with the Kremlin.

Israel's Foreign Minister did not go so far as to say that US and Soviet declarations on the Middle East had run counter to joint Egyptian-Israeli interests or given rise to shared feelings of anxiety.

President Sadat, he nonetheless felt emboldened to state, now wants to negotiate the terms of a peace treaty directly with his erstwhile adversary rather than await the outcome of the Geneva conference.

Having been so frank about the two sides in the Middle East going it alone in their efforts to arrive at a peace settlement, Mr Dayan was no less outspoken about recognition of the PLO as spokesman for the Palestinians.

"We have no intention," he commented, "of sitting at the same table as murderers."

Peter Hopfen
(Bremer Nachrichten, 1 December 1977)

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the European Community, to hold fire in future with its premature advice.

Bonn, he told his hosts, has been anything but an able advocate of the Israeli cause. Why did this country, unlike the United States, vote in favour of a UN resolution anticipating an outcome to peace talks that was clearly to Israel's disadvantage?

"Is that the gospel as far as you are concerned?" Mr Dayan countered on



Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti conferring with Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt at Valeggio, near Verona, on 1 December. (Photo: dpa)

Back to serenity for ties with Italy

Relations with Italy have regained their customary serenity after a tempestuous interlude prompted by the escape from a military hospital in Rome of former SS officer Herbert Kappler.

Chancellor Schmidt and Premier Andreotti, who met in Valeggio, near Verona, on 1 December, cordially testified to the end of a lengthy trough of low pressure.

Ties had already taken a turn for the better, with German misdeeds, actual and imaginary, no longer occasioning indignant headlines.

Economic and social problems have returned to the fore, exerting their usual relentless pressure on the hard-pressed fabric of Italian society.

Giulio Andreotti sounded the right note with his comment that "we must look to the future, not forgetting the past but not allowing it to predispose us either."

He and Herr Schmidt were nonetheless

less glossing over the immediate past in claiming that recent discord had been sounded solely by peripheral elements.

Many prominent public figures, not to mention most leading newspapers, made common cause against Bonn in the Kappler affair.

Not by any stretch of the imagination can people and opinion-makers such as these be deemed peripheral elements in a democratic country such as Italy.

The excitement has since subsided and Italian newspapers now cover events in this country as objectively as they do goings-on in Britain, France or the United States.

It is only fair to add that Italian public opinion was rightly indignant when leading politicians in this country took it upon themselves to comment in public on how Italy might be better governed.

Gradually the Italian public are coming to realise that Germans may have views different from their own on issues such as law and order without necessarily deserving suspicions of a Nazi resurgence.

This country too would do well to stop and think. Trenchant foreign criticism of goings-on here, especially when they admit of comparison with the Nazi era, cannot simply be dismissed with a wave of the hand or a comment to the effect that people should mind their own business.

In Italy all shades of political opinion from Liberals to Communists are united in their support of the erstwhile Resistance.

What is more, the Italians are temperamentally disposed to countenance individual freedom to an extent that in this country would be considered tantamount to chaos.

If these lessons have been learnt, then

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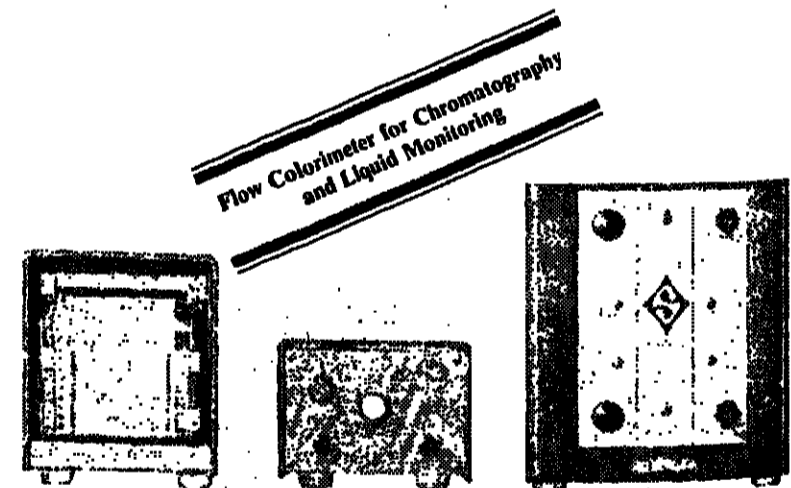
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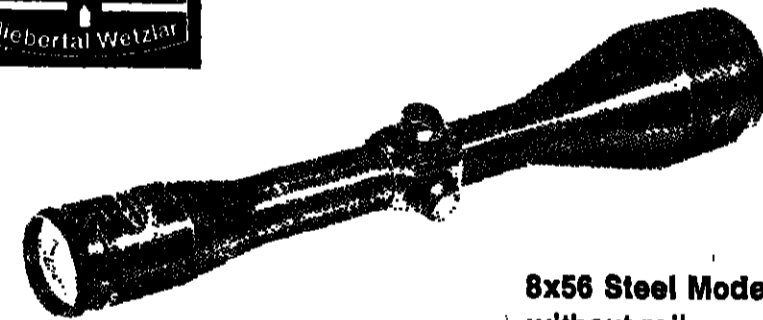
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HEALTH

Aspirin looks like proving more versatile than we all thought



Aspirin is probably the most ubiquitous patent medicine in tablet form. It has been going strong since 1899 when the antipyretic and analgesic properties of salicylic acid were discovered.

But until recently no-one suspected the many other therapeutic properties of this relatively simple chemical substance. As of late, however, researchers and doctors have delved deeper into the properties of aspirin, and the file is far from closed.

There is every likelihood that the next few years will bring new discoveries in connection with a seemingly innocuous drug.

Aspirin has been the subject of simultaneous research and scientific discussion in the past few years in Philadelphia, Berlin and London. Scientists are delving deeper and deeper into additional therapeutic qualities of salicylic acid.

It has been established that the drug can help prevent thrombosis and disorders in connection with the blood supply to coronary vessels and the brain. This, in short, is the outcome of comprehensive clinical studies in the United States, Britain, Canada, Norway and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Everybody, even in the remotest corners of the world, is familiar with aspirin as a remedy against headaches and a palliative in cases of flu. Administered in high dosages, aspirin also helps to relieve rheumatic pain. But the range of its uses is very much wider.

Salicylic acid numbers among the most interesting pharmaceutical substances and forms part of more drugs than generally assumed.

Indications of aspirin's cytostatic and immuno-suppressive properties have lately been augmented by discoveries about its retarding effects on certain enzyme systems — as for instance with regard to prostaglandin synthesis — and its anti-thrombosis properties.

It is the two latter effects of aspirin which have ushered in the drug's new medical era, opening up extremely interesting therapeutic applications.

The American scientist Dr H. Jick has established that people who for some reason use aspirin regularly are much less prone to coronary thrombosis than others. This observation has been confirmed by fellow-researchers.

It has been proved that aspirin prevents the adhesion of thrombocytes, thus improving the flow of blood. As a result, salicylic acid affords protection from blood supply disorders, strokes and thromboses if taken regularly.

Three tablets (or 1.5 grams) can suffice to provide such protection, Professor D. Loew recently stated in Berlin. But such a thrombosis prophylaxis must be implemented under medical supervision.

The new therapeutic possibilities are based on certain hitherto unknown biochemical effects of salicylic acid. Thus for instance, aspirin has an effect on prostaglandin synthesis in the human body.

Prostaglandins are a chemically uni-

form group of substances with widely differing pharmaceutical effects. They correct physiological functions and are responsible for periodic bodily functions (as, for instance, the menstruation cycle).

Salicylic acid retards the development of prostaglandin molecules, thus making it possible to influence physiological processes thus controlled.

So far, these insights have gained no major importance in therapy but experts are agreed that a purpose-oriented retardation of prostaglandin synthesis by means of aspirin can have far-reaching physiological consequences. This might even provide the key to the understanding of the manifold effects of salicylic acid.

This discovery alone would have sufficed to draw the attention of research scientists to aspirin. But lately this realisation has been further enhanced by insights which open up entirely new therapeutic possibilities. Salicylic acid is now to prevent thrombocytes from sticking to each other, which makes thrombosis prophylaxis feasible.

Blood clots are formed by interaction of plasmatic factors and coagulation factors. The basis of blood clots is provided by special "burr" properties of thrombocytes. In other words, the prevention of such a function could prevent thrombosis even in cases where the inner walls of blood vessels have been damaged.

As has recently been established by Professor K. Breddin, Frankfurt, salicylic acid prevents the adhesion of thrombocytes and above all their deposit on the walls of blood vessels. So far, however, biochemists have been unable to fathom these mechanisms.

It is, however, assumed that a salicylic group secedes from the salicylic acid molecule, linking itself to a protein molecule which is responsible for the adhesion.

An important factor in this connection is that this process only functions with an intake of more than 500 milligrams of aspirin.

In view of these two new scientific discoveries, which are probably inter-linked, a treatment of arterial blood supply disorders appears feasible.

Comprehensive research has meanwhile also proved that post-operative thrombo-embolic complications can be considerably reduced through treatment with salicylic acid. In many instances it is this very adhesion of thrombocytes which leads to disaster.

Professor Breddin's two-year study involved more than 1,000 patients. Even though the study is methodically, statistically and clinically absolutely above board, there is still no way of completely excluding post-operative thrombosis risks since dangerous embolisms are governed not only by the properties of blood.

In this connection, Professor D. Loew has pointed out in London that salicylic acid cannot dissolve clots. As opposed to some other drugs, it cannot reverse a thrombosis process but only prevent it. In other words, the therapeutic effect of aspirin depends not on the dosage — 1,500 milligrams a day — but on the degree of sclerosis.

The clinical use of aspirin in treating heart and circulation disorders encouragingly indicates that salicylic acid can mitigate the fatal consequences of coronary ailments.

Numerous studies in various Western countries have meanwhile confirmed this. Thus, for instance, Professor P. C. Elwood, Cardiff, reports that aspirin reduces mortality after heart attacks.

In an initial study, Professor Elwood treated 635 cardiac patients for two years by administering 300 milligrams of aspirin three times a day. Another group were, for comparison purposes, given placebos. The placebo group showed a mortality rate of 13.6 per cent whereas the group treated with aspirin showed a mortality of only 8.8 per cent.

Another study carried out by Professor Elwood indicates that considerably better results can be expected.

It seems that the earlier the treatment begins, the more successful the aspirin treatment proves. But the dosage, too, seems to play a major role. It would appear that mortality following a heart attack drops if 1,500 milligrams instead of 1,200 milligrams a day are administered.

Anaesthesia questionnaire



Hospital patients who have to be anaesthetised are in future to fill in a questionnaire concerning their health history. They are also to be handed a medical information brochure.

A decision to this effect was reached by the Anaesthetists' Association at their recent annual congress in Saarbrücken.

A committee of experts has been commissioned to design the questionnaire and to write the brochure on anaesthesia, which should make it possible to introduce the new procedure in about a year's time in hospitals all over the country.

(Die Welt, 21 November 1977)

Professor Charles R. Klint, Boston (USA), reports similar successes. His study is based on a total of 1,500 patients who survived a heart attack and who were administered 1,000 milligrams of aspirin a day.

The most meticulous study is evidently that supervised by Professor Loew, German-Austrian cooperative study, which seven clinics took part.

The objective of this study, which the first of its kind, was to prove whether salicylic acid can reduce the risk of a second heart attack and thus of sudden death. Moreover, the study was to register and analyse side-effects.

It involved 945 patients who had suffered a heart attack six weeks earlier and were treated and kept under observation by the seven participating clinics. A group was given a daily dosage of 75 milligrams of aspirin whereas another was administered other medication to prevent blood clotting, and a third group received only placebos.

The study began in January 1971 and was completed on 31 March 1977. A preliminary evaluation showed, as pointed out by Professor K. Ueberla, Mainz, that the aspirin group showed a less incidence of a second attack or sudden death than the group treated with other medication or with placebos.

Even though these studies are not completed it seems clear that aspirin, especially if the salicylic acid crystals are encapsulated and therefore have direct contact with the mucous membranes of the stomach — opens up new vistas for therapy following heart attacks.

But whether aspirin can serve as a prophylaxis for heart and circulation ailments cannot yet be established definitely.

A British study in which some 2,000 doctors participated is to clarify this question. But the first conclusive results are not expected to be forthcoming until a few years from now.

Konrad Müller-Christiansen
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 28 November 1977)

Cashiers handle groceries by the ton

Women working at cash desks in supermarkets are ruining their muscles. During peak hours they have to move up to 500 kilos, or half a ton, of goods per hour.

On weekends — from Friday afternoon until noon on Saturday — they handle up to six tons of goods.

This has been established by a study carried out under the government's "Humanisation of Work" programme which was recently presented and discussed at the Congress for Labour Protection and Labour Medicine in Düsseldorf.

The strain to which this country's 150,000 cashiers are subjected was termed "shocking" by Theodor Peters of Bochum, one of the co-authors of the study. According to him, the cubic in which these people work is "too confined, too noisy and too cold."

The study arrived at the conclusion that not a single supermarket cash desk meets the current requirements of labour medicine in view of technological facilities available.

Extended work at cash desks leads to grave complications such as a collapse of the heart and circulatory functions.

dpa
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 25 November 1977)

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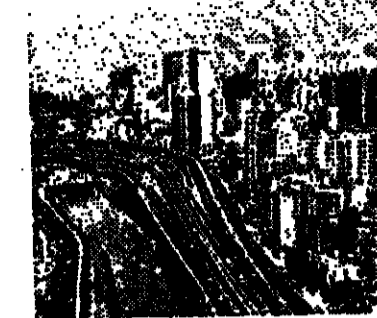
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